UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/CONF.165/PC/L.1
4 March 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT II)
Organizational session
New York
3-5 March 1993
Agenda items 3 and 4

PREPARATIONS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT II)

ARRANGEMENTS FOR FUTURE SESSIONS OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

Draft decision

The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),

Recalling the recommendations adopted by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, 1/ and General Assembly resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988 on the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and Assembly resolution 46/164 of 19 December 1991,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 47/180 of 22 December 1992 by which it decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) from 3 to 14 June 1996 in Turkey,

Noting the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which recognized the proper management of human settlements as a prerequisite to the attainment of the overall goals for sustainable development, the centre-piece of which must be the human being,

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1/ See Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, 31 May-11 June 1976 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum).

Bearing in mind the need to take into consideration the work of other recent and planned United Nations conferences on human settlements-related subjects,

Noting that the provision of external financial resources needed to implement the programmes set forth in chapter 7 of Agenda 21 2/ would facilitate the mobilization of resources locally,

Stressing the active role that the Commission on Human Settlements can play in supporting the work of the Preparatory Committee,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), 3/

1. Invites the Commission on Human Settlements at its fourteenth session to provide recommendations to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) on substantive issues in an integrated manner for the Conference in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/180 and taking into account discussions on those issues in the organizational session of the Preparatory Committee;

2. Invites Member States and observers of the United Nations to submit written proposals to be considered, where practical, by the Commission on Human Settlements at its fourteenth session when drawing up recommendations on substantive topics for the Conference;

3. Invites the Commission on Human Settlements at its fourteenth session to draft guidelines for consideration and adoption by the Preparatory Committee at its first session to enable States to take a harmonized approach in their preparations and reporting;

[4. Requests the Secretary-General to provide technical and financial assistance for developing countries, at their request, in the elaboration of national reports for the Conference;]

5. Decides that the first session of the Preparatory Committee should take place in [early] 1994 in [Geneva/New York];

6. Decides that the Preparatory Committee will establish at each session, on the basis of its agenda, the need for and the number of informal negotiating groups, as well as the need for other specific sessional arrangements for its work, on the understanding that the number of such groups

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2/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26, vols. I, II and Corr.1, and III).

3/ A/CONF.165/PC/2.

would not exceed three during a particular session and that no more than two of them would meet simultaneously;

7. Decides also to consider the issues contained in paragraphs 3 (a), (c) and (d) of General Assembly resolution 47/180 and their relationship with the proposed Global Action Plan at the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee on the basis of reports by the Secretary-General;

8. Decides further to evaluate the implementation of the recommendations of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and the relationship between the Global Strategy for Shelter and the proposed Global Action Plan at the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee on the basis of a report of the Secretary-General and to make recommendations for the attainment of the objectives of the Global Strategy by the target date;

9. Requests the Secretary-General, in making recommendations on a Global Action Plan, to utilize the results of the review of Agenda 21 4/ on human settlement issues to be undertaken by the Commission on Sustainable Development as well as the outcome of the regional and subregional preparatory meetings;

10. Requests the ad hoc secretariat of the Conference at an early stage to obtain an overview of relevant documentation and reports already available or about to be prepared in order to avoid overlapping and duplication of work in other forums;

11. Urges the relevant United Nations programmes, agencies and funds within existing resources, and multilateral financial institutions within their areas of competence, to provide inputs to the preparatory process;

12. Welcomes the decision to establish an ad hoc secretariat for the Conference as an organizational part of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);

13. Decides that, in order to enable non-governmental organizations effectively to participate in the Conference and its preparatory process, their participation shall be governed by the rules of procedure annexed to the present decision;

14. [Urges] Governments of the developed countries and countries in a position to do so to contribute to the separate voluntary funds established in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/180 in order to ensure the preparation of the Conference and the participation of developing countries in the preparatory process as well as in the Conference.

4/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26, vols. I, II and Corr.1, and III).

Annex

Rules of procedure for the participation of non-governmental organizations

1. Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council that express their will to attend the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the meetings of its Preparatory Committee shall be accredited for participation. Others wishing to be accredited may apply to the Conference secretariat for this purpose in accordance with this decision.

2. The secretariat of the Conference shall be responsible for the receipt and preliminary evaluation of requests from non-governmental organizations for accreditation to the Conference and its preparatory process.

3. All such applications must be accompanied by information on the organization's competence and relevance to the work of the Preparatory Committee, indicating the particular areas of the Conference preparations to which such competence and relevance pertain, and which should include, inter alia, the following information:

(a) The purpose of the organization, and the country or countries in which it is active;

(b) Date of establishment and location of the principal office of the organization and confirmation of its activities at the national and/or international level;

(c) Information as to the programmes and activities of the organization in areas relevant to the Conference and its preparatory process, and the country or countries in which they are carried out;

(d) Copies of its annual reports with financial statements and a list of members of the governing body and their country of nationality;

(e) A description of its membership, indicating the total number of members and their geographical distribution.

4. In the evaluation of the relevance of non-governmental applications for accreditation to the Conference and its preparatory process, it is agreed that their background and involvement in human settlement issues will determine their relevance.

5. Non-governmental organizations seeking accreditation shall be asked to confirm their interest in the goals and objectives of the Conference.

6. In cases where the Conference secretariat believes, on the basis of the information provided in accordance with this decision, that the organization

has established its competence and relevance to the work of the Preparatory Committee, it will recommend to the Preparatory Committee that the organization be accredited. In cases where the Conference secretariat does not recommend the granting of accreditation, it will make available to the Preparatory Committee the reasons for not doing so. The Conference secretariat should ensure that its recommendations are available to the Preparatory Committee at least one week prior to the start of the session.

7. The Preparatory Committee will decide on all cases and proposals for accreditation within 24 hours of the Conference secretariat's recommendations having been taken up by the Preparatory Committee in plenary meeting. In the event of a decision not having been taken within this period, interim accreditations shall be accorded until such time as a decision is taken.

8. A non-governmental organization which has been granted accreditation to attend a session of the Preparatory Committee may attend all its future sessions.

9. In recognition of the intergovernmental nature of the Conference, non-governmental organizations shall have no negotiating role in the work of the Conference and its preparatory process.

10. Relevant non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council may be given an opportunity to address the Preparatory Committee briefly in plenary meeting and in its subsidiary bodies. Other relevant non-governmental organizations may also ask to speak briefly at such meetings. If the number of requests is too large, the Preparatory Committee shall request the non-governmental organizations to form themselves into constituencies, each constituency to speak through one spokesperson. Any oral intervention by a non-governmental organization should, in accordance with normal United Nations practice, be at the discretion of the Chairman and with the consent of the Preparatory Committee.

11. Relevant non-governmental organizations may, at their own expense, make written presentations during the preparatory process in the official languages of the United Nations as they deem appropriate. Those written presentations will not be issued as official documents except in accordance with United Nations rules of procedure.